

**From:** Steve Corwin  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Throughout this case there's been a lot of talk about Microsoft's freedom to innovate, but what about my freedom to innovate? I'm a profesional software developer with over 10 years experience. Suppose I come up with an idea for a new piece of software, something that most anyone can use. Suppose I start a company to sell it. Under the terms of this agreement, Microsoft is free to release a competing product for free & put me out of business, just like they did to Netscape. Microsoft has almost \$38 billion in the bank to fund their efforts. I need venture capital. What venture capitalist will fund me? They know what happened to Netscape. They know what happened to IBM's OS/2. They figure they know what will happen to me.

What about my freedom to innovate?

Steve Corwin

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